



March 2017



Photo credit: Travis Jordan

Wyoming is a state in the mountain region of the western United States. The state is the tenth largest by area, the least populous and the second least densely populated state in the country.

Do you have a nomination for the Sidebar? Please contact Tiffany at the clerk's office in Casper (307)232-2620

CM/ECF Training: Please note that CM/ECF training will now be offered once a month in Cheyenne on the 3rd Wednesday from 2:00-3:00 pm. Also, for a quick tutorial please visit the U.S. Courts' CBT (computer based training) <https://www.pacer.gov/cmecf/dc/>

U.S. DISTRICT CLERK'S COURTERLY

DOCKETING TIPS

***When submitting an amended filing, it would be helpful to the Court to include a brief statement at the beginning of the document explaining the reason for the amended filing or what about the original filing is different.**

***Please do not use abbreviations when e-filing**

***When submitting a proposed order, please do not include the attorney information block in the upper left-hand corner. Also, please entitle the document as Order rather than Proposed Order.**

***Please file returns of service as returns of service instead of affidavit of service or certificate of service.**

***Please ensure you are using the most up-to-date forms. Current forms are available on our website at:**
<http://www.wyd.uscourts.gov/htmlpages/forms.html>

Friendly Reminder to Counsel

Please check your scanner settings and make sure your pleadings are scanning in portrait format and remove any blank pages if necessary.





SIDEBAR

The Profile of a Wyoming Lawyer



ZAK SZEKELY

Tell me about yourself:

I am 53 years old married with a family I love. I have a wonderful wife who actually agrees to work with me in our law office, two wonderful stepchildren who I adore and I became a grandfather last year. Since I became a lawyer when I was 41 I can't tell you about the thirty years I spent as a lawyer, just the 12 I actually have spent practicing law. I was a paramedic,

both in Casper and greater Boston, before becoming a lawyer and I find the two professions are similar as in both professions we simply help people and find solutions to problems. In my spare time I enjoy, of course spending time with my family, assisting at my Church and hunting when I can.

Why did you decide to go to law school?

When I was 8 or 9 years old I watched To Kill a Mocking Bird on TV, it was raining out and I really didn't have much else to do, so I watched a movie that fascinated me through the kind strength of Atticus Finch and his utter faith in the judicial system being above the prejudice, intolerance and ignorance of many. In the late 90's I fractured part of my spine working as a medic in greater Boston so I finished my undergrad degree and applied to UW College of Law.

What was your first job after law school?

The first six months I was in private practice, doing contract work for the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence, as well as my first C.J.A. case, but my first full time job as an attorney was with the State Public Defender in Albany County. I was there for almost 2 years, and I still miss that position.

What was your most rewarding or significant case?

I had a client who was an honorably discharged Marine; he served two tours in Iraq. He was charged with Aggravated Assault in Campbell County. The alleged victims were foreign nationals who had been advised by U.W. they were eligible to obtain u-visas as victims. The State denied there being any fraudulent I-9 or other fraudulent documents available to impeach the veracity of the alleged victims, despite both of the alleged victims being employed. The state also refused to negotiate for despite knowing that this trial would damage the alleged victims as I would be forced to impeach them, something I didn't want to do. The second day of trial I issued a subpoena to an investigator who was working with me, he obtained the documents I was told didn't exist. We obtained copies of two fraudulent Permanent Alien Resident Identification cards; two fraudulent Social Security Cards signed I-9s and tax documents. The State refused to dismiss, the Court went into closed Court, neither the state nor defense was allowed to be present for a hearing with the two alleged victims. The Court, after appointing a state public defender to represent the victims, questioned the two alleged victims, again in a closed session. The Court then allowed the State to direct the alleged victims while expressly limiting my cross, informing me that the alleged victims would and had invoked the Fifth regarding any falsified and/or fraudulent documents. The alleged victims would be allowed, over my objection, to testify as to their memory of the alleged aggravated assault by my client, though I would not be allowed to cross examine them effectively. The Jury went out for lunch, deliberated for about 30 minutes and acquitted. This case renewed my faith in the power of juries and even when Due Process is clearly violated justice will prevail.

What has kept you inspired and energized over the years?

My family and the people I work with, judges, clerks, judicial assistants, legal assistants, prosecutors defense counsel and law enforcement, it may seem odd to many but in the practice of criminal law we all seem to work well together. We represent the Constitution and while we may seem as adversaries we are friendly adversaries. I enjoy the practice of criminal law for that reason.

What do you like best about being a Wyoming Lawyer? It is a big state with a small population, as a Wyoming lawyer I get to travel over some of the most beautiful country in the world and interact with some amazing professional individuals, I wouldn't practice anywhere else.

An Inside Look at the Jury Experience

The role of the jury in protecting the rights of Americans in criminal and civil cases is the focus of a U.S. Courts video discussion featuring two U.S. district judges, a clerk of court, and a law professor and author on the jury process. The panel discussion, titled “Knowledge Seminar: An Inside Look at the Jury Experience,” was held Nov. 17 in Washington, D.C. Panelists included Judge George O’Toole, District of Massachusetts; Judge Reggie Walton, District Court for the District of Columbia; Robin Tabora, Clerk of Court, District of Connecticut; and Andrew Ferguson, law professor at the University of the District of Columbia.

<http://www.uscourts.gov/news/2017/03/02/inside-look-jury-experience>





The Geekbyte2



Our current Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) hardware was put in production 6 years ago in October so it's long past time to replace it. We are in the process of spinning up new hardware on a blade server in San Diego, CA which will provide full fail over redundancy in case a disaster strikes. If all goes well, we should be on this new hardware by the end of the year. Users should not see any latency issues even though the system is so far from Wyoming - in fact, many other courts have reported users seeing an increase in speed as the systems are on new faster equipment with more bandwidth to the servers! Please be patient with us as we work out any unexpected bugs with this transition - hopefully it will be transparent to you all.